

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/944,587

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): : An auxiliary jig used with a couple of jigs for forming a structure made of a fiber-reinforced composite by heating under a pressure, wherein said auxiliary jig is provided between said jigs to prevent, and comprises means for preventing said jigs from falling down and to restrainfor restraining a resin contained in said fiber-reinforced composite from flowing out from an interspace between said jigs, wherein said auxiliary jig comprises a rigid portion and an elastic portion.
2. (canceled).
3. (currently amended): The auxiliary jig according to claim 21, wherein said rigid portion is made of a stainless steel, aluminum, graphite or CFRP.
4. (currently amended): The auxiliary jig according to claim 21, wherein said elastic portion is made of a silicone rubber.
5. (currently amended): The auxiliary jig according to claim 1, wherein said auxiliary jig is used for producing a stiffened panel by a method comprising the steps of: placing an-a skin member and a preformed stiffener member, each made of a fiber-reinforced composite, on a forming tool; disposing said couple of jigs on said preformed stiffener member; providing said auxiliary jig between said jigs; and integrally forming said skin member and said preformed stiffener member by heating under a pressure.

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6. (new): A method of producing a stiffened panel of a fiber-reinforced composite, using a couple of jigs, said method comprising the steps of:

placing a skin member and a preformed stiffener member, each made of a fiber-reinforced composite, on a forming tool;

disposing said couple of jigs on said preformed stiffener member;

providing an auxiliary jig having a rigid portion and an elastic portion;

preventing said couple of jigs from falling down, and restraining a resin, contained in said fiber-reinforced composite, from flowing out, by placing said auxiliary jig between said couple of jigs;

and integrally forming said skin member and said preformed stiffener member by heating under a pressure.

7. (new): An apparatus for producing a stiffened panel of a fiber-reinforced composite by heating under pressure, said apparatus comprising:

a forming tool;

a couple of jigs, disposed on said forming tool, for receiving a skin member and a preformed stiffener member, each made of a fiber-reinforced composite containing a resin; and

an auxiliary jig disposed between said couple of jigs,

said auxiliary jig comprising means for preventing falling down of said couple of jigs, and for restraining the resin from flowing out,

said means comprising a rigid portion of said auxiliary jig and an elastic portion of said auxiliary jig.

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8. (new): The auxiliary jig according to claim 1, wherein said rigid portion prevents the falling down, and said elastic portion restrains the flowing out.